

OF NOTE

BRIEFINGS

★ Small business

Disability Transition Assistance Program Seminar is **today**, 9-11:30 a.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

★ Baby briefing

Bundles for Babies Briefing is **Jan. 12**, 8:30-11 a.m., in the Family Support Center. Call 846-0741 to register.

★ Dads class

All new or expecting, first-time fathers are invited to the four-hour class, Dads 101, on surviving as a new dad.

The Family Advocacy Program offers the class **Jan. 13**, 8 a.m.-noon, in Room D-17 in the 377th Air Base Wing Headquarters.

Make reservations at 846-0139.

★ VA benefits

Veterans Affairs Benefits and Entitlements Briefing is **today**, 1-4:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Call 846-0741 to register.

CLOSINGS

★ Logistics CC call

The 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron is minimally manned **Jan. 12**, 7-9:30 a.m., during a commander's call.

★ MVD, ITT

During wing training day, **Jan. 15**, the Motor Vehicle Division is closed 2-4 p.m. and Information, Tickets and Tours is closed noon-4 p.m.

EDUCATION

★ CLEP tests changing

The CLEP college testing program is in transition, reducing from 35 to 14 exams available at the Education Center.

Subject exams withdrawn from testing **Jan. 31**, are: Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composi-

tion, Introductory Psychology and Principles of Management.

The five exams are part of the 14 that will be available on base in revised versions in **April 2004**.

All 35 exams remain available at off-base testing centers on a self-pay basis.

Call 846-8955 or 846-9933.

★ Virtual ed center

The Community College of the Air Force and the Air Force Virtual Education Center have teamed to help military members build on their education by using the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

The AFVEC is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about education benefits, including selected Community College of the Air Force information.

Students may log on to AFVEC, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, from a .mil domain only, to create an account and to access their on-line CCAF academic records and customer service tools.

EVENTS

★ Chiefs induction

The 2004 Chiefs Induction Ceremony is **Jan. 23** in the Mountain View Club.

Senior Master Sgts. Jeff Amos and Mark Hall will be inducted.

Social hour is at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Dress is mess dress, semi formal or dark suit or evening dress for civilians.

For reservations for \$25 a person, contact Chief Master Sgt. Sheila Gurule, 846-5609, or sheila.gurule@kirtland.af.mil.

★ Tribute to Women

The Tribute to Women in the Military is **March 5** in the Hilton Hotel, 1901 University Northeast.

The conference includes remarks by U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. The conference also includes featured speakers, workshops, exhibits

and an open panel discussion.

Nominations for the Major T.H. Baca, Cathay Williams and Sara Gist-Bernasconi awards presented at the conference are due by **Feb. 7**.

Early registration, postmarked by **Jan. 14** is \$10, and registration by **Jan. 30** is \$15. Late registration is \$20. Checks payable to VVNM/VVA-TRIBUTEXIX should be sent to Tribute XIX, P.O. Box 91775, Albuquerque, N.M. 87199-1775.

For information, contact Lt. Col. Dorothy Silvani, 846-0063, or Master Sgt. Jacqueline Pennington-Colvil, 846-7525. For registration, contact Ms. Betty Brooks, 821-1092.

★ Dr. King service

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative service is **Jan. 16**, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the chapel.

A reception follows in the annex.

Guest speaker is Elder James L. Keith Jones of the God in Christ and Choir.

For more information or questions, contact 1st Lt. Kathryn Parker, 846-5393; 2nd Lt. Devanie Bridges, 846-1820; or Rasheeda Tabb-Bey, 853-5156.

★ ALS ceremony

The Airman Leadership School graduation ceremony and lunch is **Feb. 12**, 11:30 a.m., in the Mountain View Club.

Tickets are \$8 a person for club members and \$10 for others. They are available from students or by e-mail at 377mssdpn@kirtland.af.mil.

Purchase tickets by **Feb. 6**.

For upcoming class information, visit <https://www.mil.kirtland.af.mil/Organizations/als/ALS%20Home>.

★ Wing awards

The 377th Air Base Wing Fourth Quarter Awards ceremony is 3 p.m. **Jan. 16**, in the Mountain View Club.

MEETINGS

★ Advisory council

The TEAM KIRTLAND Advisory Council meets **Feb. 3**, 3 p.m., in the

Rio Grande Community Center.

The council meets the first Tuesday of every month.

All units are invited to send a representative to participate in the discussion of issues that affect the installation.

★ Hearts Apart

Hearts Apart Support Group meets **tomorrow**, 1 p.m., in the Consolidated Support Center.

The group is for all those with a deployed family member.

Lunch is served during and a craft activity is available for children.

No reservation is required.

★ Infant playgroup

Parents and their infants 18 months or younger are invited to attend a weekly playgroup, **Thursdays**, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the Maxwell Child Development Center.

Meet other parents while watching the babies socialize.

No reservation is needed. For more information, call Mike Walti, 846-0139.

MISCELLANEA

★ CDC policy

Expecting mothers can add their names to the child development centers' waiting list during their third trimester.

Also available to the new mothers will be the Mildly Ill Child Program.

Call the Gibson Child Development Center, 846-1103, and the Maxwell Child Development Center, 853-5521.

PERSONNEL

★ Mandatory safety brief

The 377th Air Base Wing Safety Office presents the mid-winter safety briefing, **Jan. 15**, 9 a.m. or 1 p.m., in the theater.

All 377th Air Base Wing members, civilian and military, are required to attend.

OF NOTE

★ **Name tag**

Wearing the new metallic name tag on service dress uniform and pullover sweaters is now mandatory for active duty Air Force members. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service only is the authorized vendors for tags at this time.

★ **Premium increase**

Some Air Force Federal Employees Group Life Insurance participants will see an increase in premiums in January.

Civilian employees in the Option B 70-80 or older age bands are slated for the increase the first full pay period of the new year.

Option B Rate Table for 2004 (Cost Per \$1,000 of Coverage):

- ★ For ages 70-74, biweekly rates are \$1.03 up from 87 cents and monthly rates are \$2.232 up from \$1.885.
- ★ For ages 75-79, biweekly rates are \$1.43 up from \$1.07 and monthly rates are \$3.098 up from \$2.318.
- ★ For ages 80 and over, biweekly rates are \$1.83 up from \$1.27 and monthly rates are \$3.965 up from \$2.752.

Employees may cancel or decrease Option B coverage at any time, but should remember that opportunities to pick it up again are limited.

To avoid paying the increased premium, elections should be submitted no later than **Jan. 10** via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm, or the BEST automated phone system 800-616-3775.

RECRUITING

★ **Army blood drive**

The William Beaumont Army Medical Center blood drive is **Jan. 14**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Rio Grande Community Center.

★ **Local blood drives**

United Blood Services conducts blood drives on Kirtland AFB. Call 768-1408. Upcoming drives are at:

- ★ Sandia Labs **every Tuesday**, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,
- ★ 898th Munitions Squadron, **Jan. 12**, 8:30 a.m.-noon, in front of Building 27497,
- ★ Defense Threat Reduction Agency, **Jan. 16**, 7:30-11:30 a.m.,
- ★ 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron, **Jan. 21**, behind building 20356, Vehicle Ops, noon-3:30 p.m.,
- ★ 58th Special Operations Wing, **Jan. 23**, in Aerial Delivery Building 994, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.,
- ★ 377th Medical Group, **Jan. 28**, 7:30-11:30 a.m., in the Bloodmobile in front of the clinic.

ROADWORK

★ **Power Line Road**

One lane of Robotics Road will be closed during relocation of power poles along Power Line Road, **Jan. 19-23**.

The closure affects access to the Kirtland AFB landfill as well as any Robotics Road traffic.

SCHOLARSHIPS

★ **Active duty family**

The Military Officers Association of America's 2004 Base/Post Scholarship program is open through **March 1**. Scholarships are \$1,000 grants to 50 dependents of active duty person-

nel worldwide.

Students, 24 or younger, whose parents are active duty in the military services or Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are eligible. Dependents of drilling Reservists and Guardsmen are also eligible. The students must be working on their first undergraduate degree.

For full information and to apply, visit www.moaa.org.

★ **Spouse scholarship**

The Air Force Spouses Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to spouses of Air Force active duty, Reserve or Guard.

Spouses worldwide pursuing a degree can apply for the \$1,000 scholarships by **Jan. 30**.

Learn details at www.aef.org/aid/spouse.asp.

★ **Military children**

Applications for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program are being accepted through **Feb. 18** from children of active duty and retired military, Guard and Reserve members. The academic scholarship awards are for \$1,500.

The program is operated by the Defense Commissary Agency, and funding comes from manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries.

The Fisher House Foundation underwrites the program's administrative costs.

The general public can contribute to the program through the Fisher House Foundation at www.fisherhouse.org or visit the program's Web site at www.militaryscholar.org/.

★ **No paper LES**

Paper copies of Leave and Earnings Statements for military members will not be provided by Defense Finance and Accounting Service after Jan. 31.

Additionally, W-2s for military members will be available on myPay around Jan. 26. The service will not mail hard copy W-2s unless member is deployed.

Civilian employees will receive a hardcopy W-2 at their current mailing address. Additionally, they can access W-2s on myPay.

To access accounts online, military and civilians should visit the finance customer service counter to receive an immediate PIN or logon at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to receive a PIN by mail.

Be cautious that you type in the Web address correctly. There are similar commercial sites which have no connection to the government.

To have a finance employee visit your organization with a laptop computer to provide PINs, call 2nd Lt. Michelle Paquet at 846-7258.

All commanders with personnel that don't normally have access to computers should make a computer available.

Computers are available also at the Rio Grande Community Center and the Library.



HOMELAND HEROES

You are the American spirit.

When needed, you answered the call to serve your Nation. And even when you return to civilian life, your service to your community and country will still matter. You can continue to serve by becoming a member in your hometown Air Force – the Air National Guard.

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